

Abstract

A colonic overtube 1 for maintaining a sigmoid colon in a straightened configuration has a proximal end 2 for location externally of a colon, and a distal end 3 for insertion into a colon. A colonoscope lumen 4 extends through the overtube 1 to facilitate passing the overtube 1 over a colonoscope. The overtube 1 has a convoluted corrugation 5 which extends along the entire length of the overtube 1 from the proximal end 2 to the distal end 3. The corrugated configuration of the overtube 1 provides the overtube 1 with laterally flexibility so that the overtube 1 may flex substantially without kinking during advancement of the overtube 1 through a colon. A flexible seal, in the form of a tubular silicone sheath 6 of film material, is provided at the distal end 3 of the overtube 1 for sealing between the overtube 1 and a colonoscope extending through the colonoscope lumen 4. The flexible nature of the seal 6 enables the seal 6 to adapt itself to the size of the colonoscope extending through the colonoscope lumen 4 to achieve a secure, effective seal between the overtube 1 and a colonoscope regardless of the colonoscope size.

[Fig. 1]